

FOUR NEW INJURIOUS WEEVILS FROM AFRICA.

By GUY A. K. MARSHALL.

Eremnus fulleri, sp. nov. (fig. 1).

♂ ♀. Colour piceous, with dense light earthy-brown scaling, usually with a very variable and often indistinct mottling of greyish and blackish scales; the thorax with three indistinct paler stripes.

Head very convex, separated from the rostrum by a broad, shallow impression, the finely rugose sculpturing quite hidden by the scaling; forehead evidently narrower than the rostrum and with no central fovea. *Rostrum* stout, about three-fourths the length of the prothorax, almost straight and parallel-sided; a broad groove running backwards on each side from the scrobe to the eye, so that the central dorsal area is left as a broad parallel-sided ridge with a shallow impression in the middle; the genae broadly impressed below the scrobe. *Antennae* with the scape rather slender and gradually clavate, clothed with dense scaling and appressed setae; the funicle with joint 2 very slightly longer than 1. *Prothorax* evidently broader than long, especially in the ♀, the greatest width behind the middle, the sides strongly rounded, with a broad shallow constriction at the apex, which is much narrower than the base, the dorsal apical margin straight, the ocular lobes slight and with very short vibrissae.

Fig. 1. *Eremnus fulleri*, Mshl., ♀.

Scutellum minute, with dense pale scaling. *Elytra* broadly ovate in the ♀, narrower and more pointed behind in the ♂, the basal margin rather deeply sinuate; the striae and their shallow punctures almost entirely concealed by the dense scaling, the intervals almost plane, each with a single row of suberect scale-like setae, interval 7 with a very short elevated carina at the base which prevents the 7th stria from reaching the base and causes it to turn outwards into the 8th; the scales are small, nearly circular, and slightly imbricated. *Legs* densely clothed with pale scales and with broad recumbent setae, the femora without a tooth.

Length, ♂ 4·5–5, ♀ 5–5·5; width, ♂ 2–2·5, ♀ 2·5–3 mm.

ORANGE FREE STATE: Wepener (*C. Fuller*).

The only other species of *Eremnus* with untoothed femora which has a similar humeral callus is *E. humeralis*, Fähr., which can readily be distinguished from *E. fulleri*, among other characters, by the presence of small tubercles at the sides of

the thorax and at the base of intervals 8 and 9 on the elytra, as well as by the fact that the upper surface is set with very long, erect, slender setae.

Mr. Claude Fuller, Assistant Chief of the Division of Entomology, Pretoria, states that the adults of this weevil were found attacking the leaves of maize.

HYPEROIDES, gen. nov.

Head rather deeply sunk in the thorax, the forehead as broad as the base of the rostrum; eyes entirely lateral, elongate and coarsely faceted; head and rostrum together as long as the prothorax. *Rostrum* stout and very slightly widened apically, the apex entire; the mouth-parts as in *Hypera*; the scrobes only slightly oblique, widening behind and vanishing some distance before the eyes. *Antennae* with the scape extending well beyond the anterior margin of the eye, slender at the base and gradually clavate; the funicle with joints 1 and 2 equal, the former strongly, the latter slightly clavate; joint 3 a little longer than broad, 4-6 equal and as long as broad, 7 strongly transverse. *Prothorax* with well developed ocular lobes, which almost cover the eyes when the rostrum is withdrawn and bear conspicuous vibrissae. *Scutellum* small, quadrate. *Elytra* ovate, jointly sinuate at the base, which is not wider than the base of the prothorax, the shoulders rounded but prominent; the scales lanceolate and simply pointed at the tip. *Legs* slender; the tibiae with two short spines internally at the apex; the hind tarsi with joint 3 very slightly longer than 2. *Venter* with the anterior margin of the inter-coxal piece obtusely angulate, the posterior margin of segment 1 subtruncate, and segment 2 equal to 3 and 4 together.

Other characters as in *Hypera*.

This genus is nearly allied to *Hypera* (*Phytonomus*), which differs in the following points:—the eyes are finely faceted; the ocular lobes are feeble and scarcely cover the eyes at all; the forehead is always narrower than the base of the rostrum; and the tibiae have only a single internal apical mucro.

Hyperoides fragariae, sp. nov. (fig. 2).

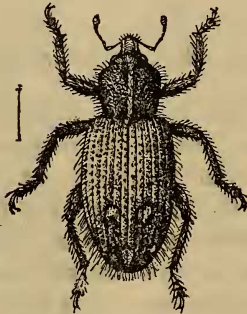


Fig. 2. *Hyperoides fragariae*, Mshl.

♂ ♀. Black or piceous; the head and rostrum with recumbent pale setae; the prothorax with mingled brown, yellowish and whitish setae, and two rows of pure white setae down the middle; elytra with dense small greyish brown scales, variegated posteriorly on intervals 2, 3 and 7 with black and whitish scales,

interval 3 bearing a more distinct spot behind the middle; the upper surface set with long erect dark setae, most of which are minutely bifid at the tip; the under surface clothed with short recumbent and longer suberect white setae.

Head reticulately punctate and without any frontal fovea; the outline of the forehead continuous with that of the rostrum. *Rostrum* shorter than the prothorax, almost straight, the sides subparallel, the upper surface regularly convex transversely, with a smooth straight central carina and four or five narrow undulating longitudinal carinae on each side of it. *Antennae* slender, testaceous brown. *Prothorax* as long as its greatest width, gradually widening from the base to quite near the apex and then suddenly constricted, the basal margin rounded, the anterior margin straight dorsally; upper surface almost plane, with large reticulate punctures and with a curved transverse impression near the apex. *Scutellum* punctate and with depressed white setae. *Elytra* with the sides slightly rounded, the dorsal outline flat, the declivity gradual; the shallow striae distinctly punctate, the punctures visible through the scaling and each containing a minute white seta, the intervals between the striae slightly convex. *Legs* red-brown, rugosely punctate and clothed with white setae, the tarsi paler. *Length*, 5·5; width, 2·25–2·5 mm.

CAPE PROVINCE: Rosebank.

A pair received from Dr. L. Peringuey with the statement that the insects were injuring strawberries. This is evidently the species referred to by Mr. C. W. Mally, Entomologist for the Cape Province, in his last annual report. He states that the weevils did considerable damage to strawberry plants about the time when the fruit was ripening. The larvae pupated in cells formed just below the surface of the soil.

This is the first species belonging to the subfamily HYPERINAE that has been recorded from South Africa.

Tychius gossypii, sp. nov.

Colour black or piceous, with dense pale brassy scaling above and white scaling beneath; the elytra with an indistinct narrow sutural stripe.

Head with dense scaling, the forehead as wide as the base of the rostrum. *Rostrum* about as long as the prothorax, narrowing gradually from the base to the apex; behind the antennae it is dark and densely scaled, the apical portion being testaceous and bare. *Antennae* testaceous, with white hairs. *Prothorax* a trifle broader than long, very slightly widening from the base to the middle, thence strongly and roundly narrowed to the apex, with a shallow apical constriction, the base distinctly bisinuate; the disk is almost plane in the middle and is evenly covered with very close punctation, which is entirely hidden by the scaling. *Elytra* narrow, only slightly convex, with narrow shallowly-punctate striae, the intervals plane and rugosely punctate, the sculpturing being hidden by the scaling. *Legs* entirely testaceous, with dense white scaling, the femora not toothed.

Length, 2·25–2·5 mm.; width, 1 mm.

EGYPT: Cairo (*F. C. Willcocks*).

This insect was found on cotton, but no information was sent as to the nature or extent of the damage done by it.

Superficially *T. gossypii* resembles *T. meliloti*, Steph., but the latter is a distinctly broader and more convex insect, with the forehead narrower than the base of the

rostrum, and the femora black; moreover, the scaling is much darker and has no metallic lustre, while the scales themselves are much narrower and more pointed, so that the surface of the thorax and elytra is plainly visible between them.

***Cyllophorus rubrosignatus*, sp. nov.** (fig. 3).

♀. Black or piceous, with recumbent scale-like white and fuscous setae, and with the following markings composed of red scales:—a stripe from the base of the rostrum to the vertex of the head; two large round dorsal spots near the anterior margin of the prothorax, a similar spot just below these on each side, and a smaller transverse basal spot in front of the shoulder; on the elytra an irregular macular basal band extending to the 6th stria on each side, a transverse patch from stria 1 to 6 just behind the middle, a rounded lateral spot in front of the middle, and a similar spot near the apex; a small spot on the mesosternal epimeron.

Head with the narrowest part of the front only slightly broader than the funicle. *Rostrum* a little longer than the thorax, strongly curved, the apex somewhat flattened, the basal portion closely punctate and subcarinate in the middle, the remainder glabrous and with fine scattered punctures. *Antennae* testaceous brown, with the



Fig. 3. *Cyllophorus rubrosignatus*, Mshl.

apical joints blackish; joint 3 elongate, almost equal to 2; 6 and 7 subquadrate. *Prothorax* shorter than its width at the base, strongly narrowed in front, the sides slightly curved; the anterior margin rounded dorsally, quite straight at the sides, the basal margin strongly bisinuate; upper surface convex, highest near the base, shallowly constricted at the apex, the reticulate punctation indistinctly visible through the scaling. *Scutellum* elevated in the middle, covered with whitish scales. *Elytra* with the dorsal outline convex, deepest before the middle, the deep narrow striae indistinctly punctured, the intervals quite plane and their rugose sculpturing almost hidden by the scaling. *Legs* comparatively short, black, with dense white recumbent setae; all the femora with a short sharp tooth, the hind pair only slightly exceeding the elytra* and each bearing a single external carina. *Underside* with dense pale scaling, the posterior margin of the metasternum with a small shiny spot in the middle.

Length, 3.5–4.75 mm.; *width*, 2–2.5 mm.

* They are shown much too short in the figure.

NATAL : Malvern (*C. N. Malvern*), Howick (*H. Dimock Brown*).

This very distinct little *Cyllophorus* may be readily recognised by its short hind legs and characteristic coloration.

Two specimens (without exact locality) have been received from Dr. L. Peringuey, Director of the South African Museum, with the information that the species is injurious to cultivated fig trees.
